

Office of the Attorney General Paul G. Summers

MEDIA NOTIFICATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 28, 2001 #01-09 CONTACT: Sharon Curtis-Flair (615) 741-5860

Construction can begin on State Route 840 in Williamson County following a decision announced today by the Tennessee Court of Appeals. The Court reversed the final judgment of the Williamson County Chancery Court, which had enjoined the continued construction of State Route 840 South in Southwest Williamson County. Almost a year ago, Chancellor Russell Heldman issued a final judgment including a permanent injunction prohibiting the Commissioner of Transportation J. Bruce Saltsman, Sr. from planning and building a 17-mile stretch of the road in Williamson County. Heldman ordered the construction halted until the Commission could perform certain "duties," including various environmental studies, which a federal court has held are not required under federal law.

The State appealed the Chancery Court's decision to the Court of Appeals, arguing the Chancellor did not have jurisdiction over the case because Commissioner Saltsman can be sued only in Davidson County. The Court of Appeals agreed with the Attorney General and dismissed the case in its entirety.

To obtain a copy of the decision, contact the Attorney General's Office at 615-741-5860.